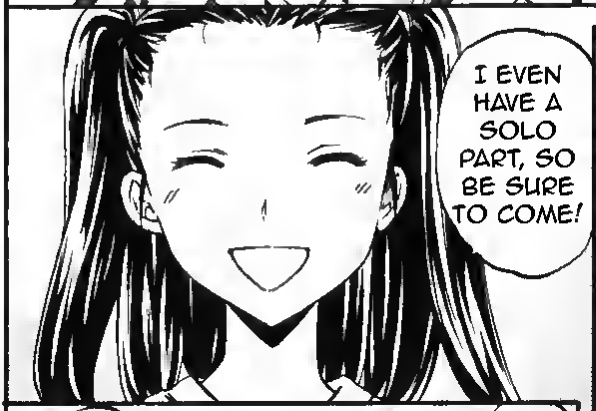
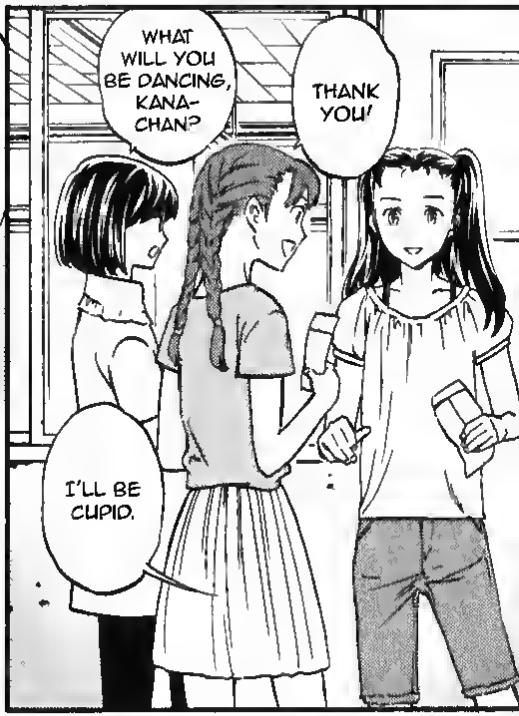
Scène.004 Merit

WOAH!
TICKETS FOR YOUR RECITAL!


I EVEN HAVE A SOLO PART, SO BE SURE TO COME!


WHAT WILL YOU BE DANCING, KANA-CHAN?
THANK YOU!
I'LL BE CUPID.

DON QUIXOTE, LIKE THE NOVEL?
FOR SURE, WOULDN'T WANT TO MISS THAT!

Library

?
AH, NO, IT'S A BIT DIFFERENT.
ALTHOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN EXPLAINING IT...

IT'S STRANGE, ISN'T IT...
HOW IN DON QUIXOTE'S BALLET,
DON QUIXOTE AND SANCHA PANZO AREN'T THE LEAD CHARACTERS..
IT'S ACTUALLY KITRI AND BASILIO.
IT RECOUNTS THE SILLY ADVENTURES OF LOVERS KITRI, THE DAUGHTER OF AN INNKEEPER,
SET IN SPAIN,
AND BASILIO, A BARBER, WHOSE PARENTS WERE AGAINST THEIR UNION.
パラ
NOT GOOD EITHER...
THIS BOOK DOESN'T COVER THE PART IN THE BALLET...

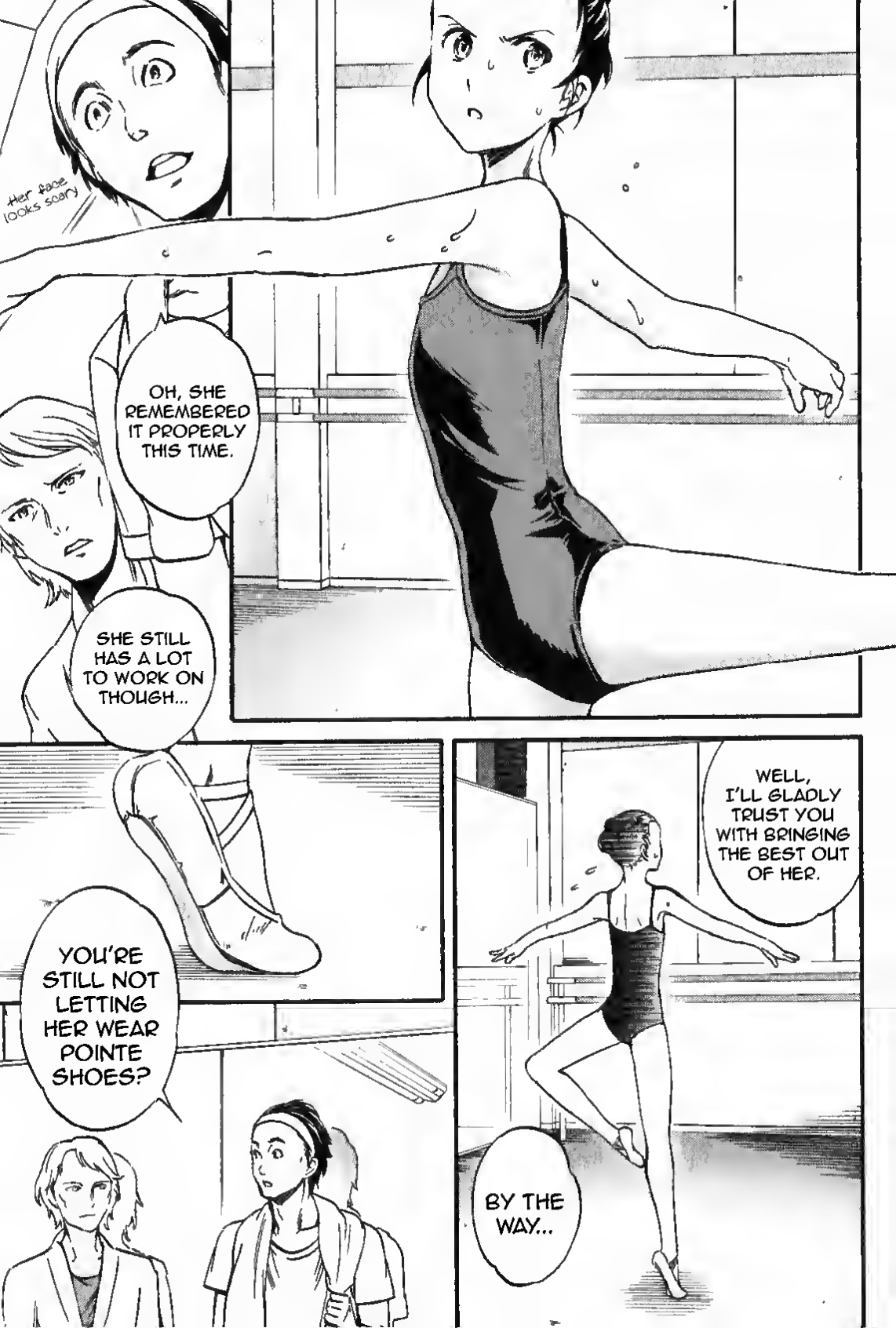
EXCUSE ME...
YOU'RE KANADE ARIYA, RIGHT?
I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO GO TO THE CITY'S LIBRARY TO BORROW THAT BULKY BOOK AGAIN...
sigh
YES THAT'S ME, IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, YOU'RE FROM NEXT CLASS...
RENA MORIWAKI, I'M ALSO LEARNING BALLET.
FROM TAKIMOTO-SENSEI BALLET STUDIO...
I GUESS SHE'S STILL A BEGINNER?
HER FEET AREN'T POINTING OUTWARD AT ALL...
HMM, BUT...
AH, SO THAT'S WHY.

I HEARD YOU TALKING EARLIER,
IT'S AMAZING THAT YOU'RE A SOLOIST!
AH, NO, IT'S JUST A SMALL PART, I'M NOT PLAYING A LEAD CHARACTER.
I'M STILL A JUNIOR.
THAT'S STILL AWE-SOME!
SAY, COULD YOU ALSO GET ME TICKETS?
YOU MEAN... FOR MY RECITAL?
UMM... I PROBABLY HAVE A FEW MORE AT HOME...
REAL-LY?
YAY!
HOW MUCH FOR TWO?
HUH?

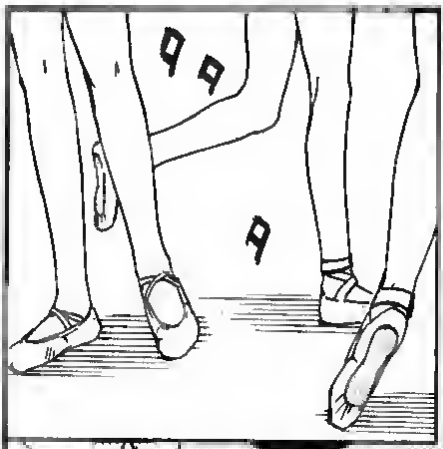
I KNOW YOU ALREADY PAID FOR THOSE TICKETS.
AND WE'RE NOT EVEN FRIENDS, SO...
NO—
I'LL JUST GIVE THEM TO YOU.
I'LL PAY FOR THEM.
I'LL BRING THEM TOMOR-ROW,
I SWEAR I DON'T NEED ANY MONEY!
WELL, THEN...
I GUESS YOU'RE MY FRIEND FROM NOW ON, RENA-CHAN!
OOPS
SHHHHH,
BUT I KNOW HO—

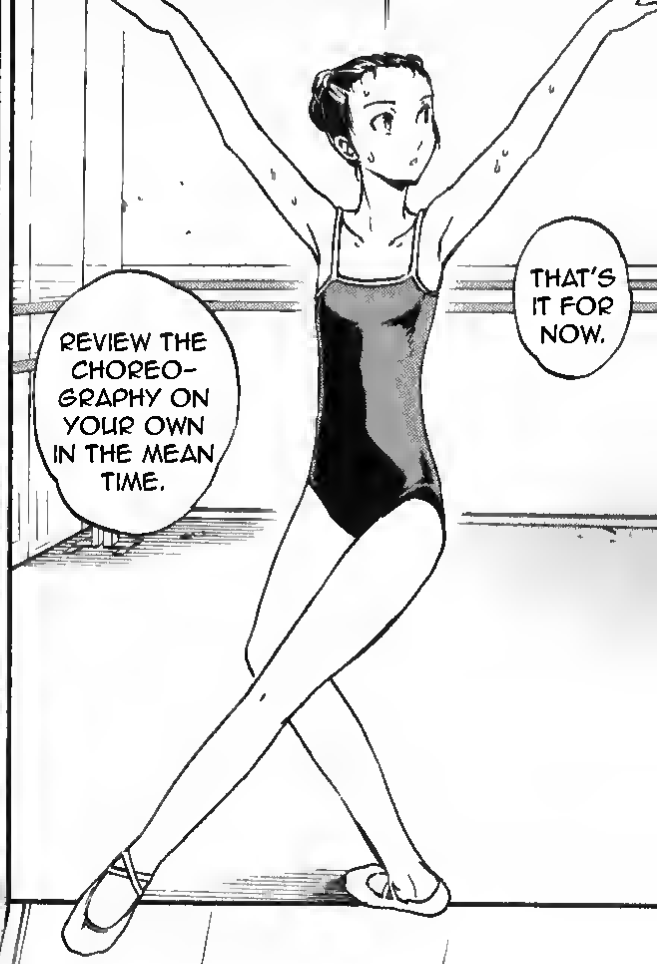
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE A PRO, REALLY,
I WOULD FEEL BAD TRYING TO SELL THEM.
THESE ARE FOR YOUR GRAND-PARENTS,
WHICH LEAVES THOSE FOR YOUR FRIENDS.
SO THERE ARE SIX LEFT, HMM.
I MEAN, YOU CAN GIVE THEM TO ANYONE YOU WANT, REALLY.
BUT... ARE WE OKAY WITH MONEY, THEN? I...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT,
WE'RE DOING JUST FINE, DUAL INCOME HOUSE-HOLD AND ALL.
AND IT'S NOT SOMETHING CHILDREN SHOULD WORRY ABOUT—
YOU SAY THAT BUT...
IT DIDN'T GO THAT WELL FOR RISA-CHAN...

PAS DE CHAT!
PAS DE CHAT!
OKAY!
ATTI-TUDE
EN DE-DANS,
PIQUÉ,
RIGHT,
LEFT,
THAT'S IT!
HOLD IT!
GOOD, AND NOW FROM THE BEGINNING WITH THE MUSIC.


Her face looks scary
OH, SHE REMEMBERED IT PROPERLY THIS TIME.
SHE STILL HAS A LOT TO WORK ON THOUGH...
YOU'RE STILL NOT LETTING HER WEAR POINTE SHOES?
WELL, I'LL GLADLY TRUST YOU WITH BRINGING THE BEST OUT OF HER.
BY THE WAY...

COMING!
ALRIGHT, FAIRIES NEXT,
LET'S START WITH YOU THREE.
OKAY—




REVIEW THE CHOREO-GRAPHY ON YOUR OWN IN THE MEAN TIME.
THAT'S IT FOR NOW.

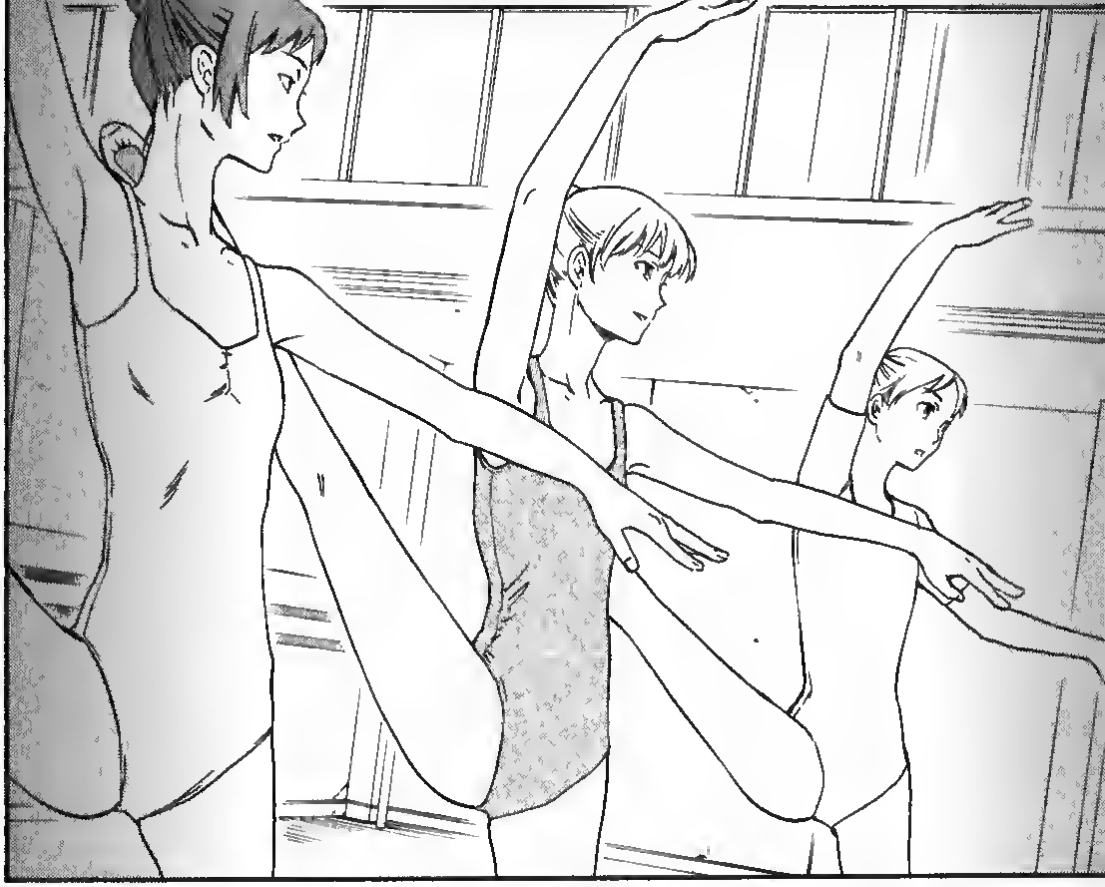
I'M THE ONLY ONE STILL WEARING BALLET SHOES...

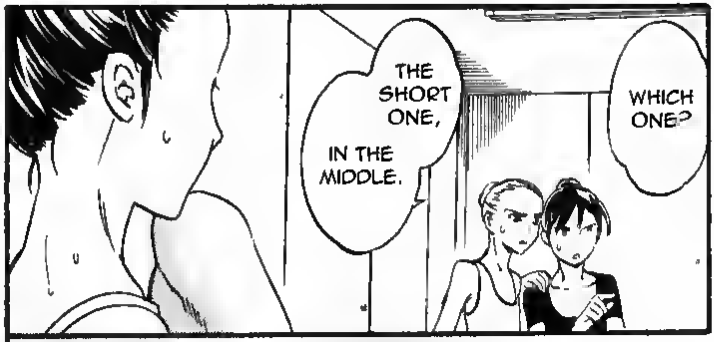
BESIDES THE CHILDREN FROM THE CORPS THE BALLET...

I'M PART OF A GROUP OF THREE FAIRIES...
YOU EVEN HAVE A SOLO,
BUT CAN'T THAT ALSO BE A POSI-TIVE?
YOU'VE GOTTEN YOUR OWN ROLE DESPITE NOT WEARING POINTE SHOES.
AND THE ONLY ONE AT THAT.
pant
pant
pant
EVEN IF THAT WERE TRUE...

...I THOUGHT I COULD MAKE THEM FLASHIER THAT WAY...
IF ONLY A LITTLE.
YES, LIKE THAT! AND AGAIN!
CAN'T YOU MOVE MORE SMOOTHLY?
SIS-SON-NE,
ATTI-TUDE!
YOU'RE BEHIND TEMPO!
YOU'RE JUMPING STRANGELY BETWEEN YOUR STEPS!
mumble
HOW IS SOMEONE IN BALLET SHOES DOING CUPID..?
À TERRE → EN POINTE
À TERRE → EN DEMI-POINTE
I HAVE TO MAKE UP THAT DIFFERENCE SOMEHOW...

...DANCERS FROM THE OTHER BRANCH.
I DON'T NEED YOU TO TELL ME...
ugh, I can feel their gaze
KANA-DE, STOP WORRYING ABOUT IT, OKAY?
I— I CAN'T HELP IT...
MY DAN-CING IS UN-SIGHT-LY!
OF COURSE I'M WOR-RYING ABOUT IT!
WHAT WILL I DO?!
sigh, I tell you
THE THREE FAIRIES NEXT.



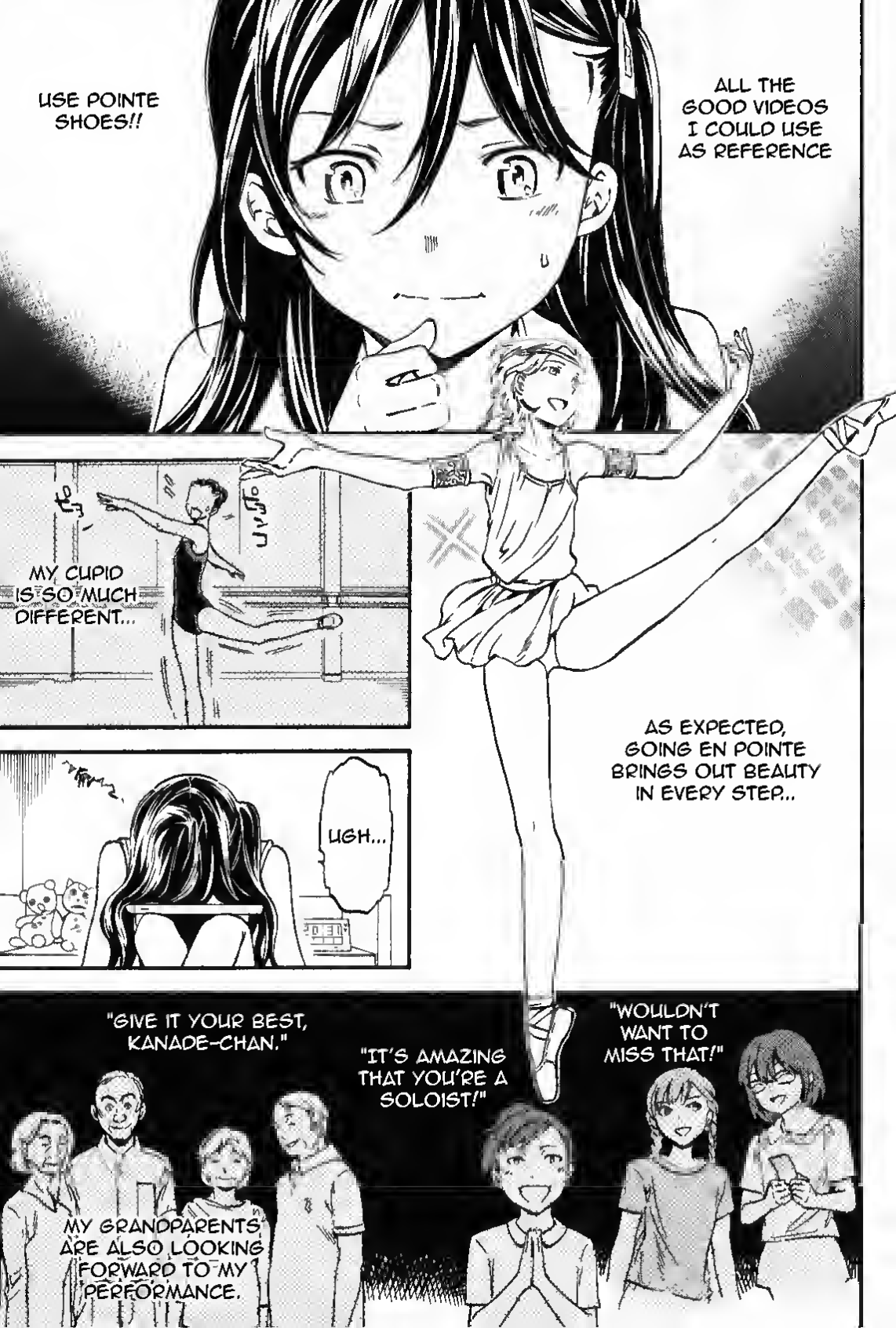

THE SHORT ONE, IN THE MIDDLE.
WHICH ONE?

THAT GIRL HAS GOTTEN A LOT BETTER SINCE LAST YEAR.

THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT SHOUKO-CHAN?

AND YET SHE FITS RIGHT IN.
HER MOVEMENTS ARE BEAUTIFUL!
SHE THE ONLY ONE OF THE THREE STILL IN MIDDLE SCHOOL,
EVERYONE IS REALLY GOOD.
PRINCESS DULCINEA
THE QUEEN OF THE DRYADS
ACT I VARIATION
ACT II VARIATION

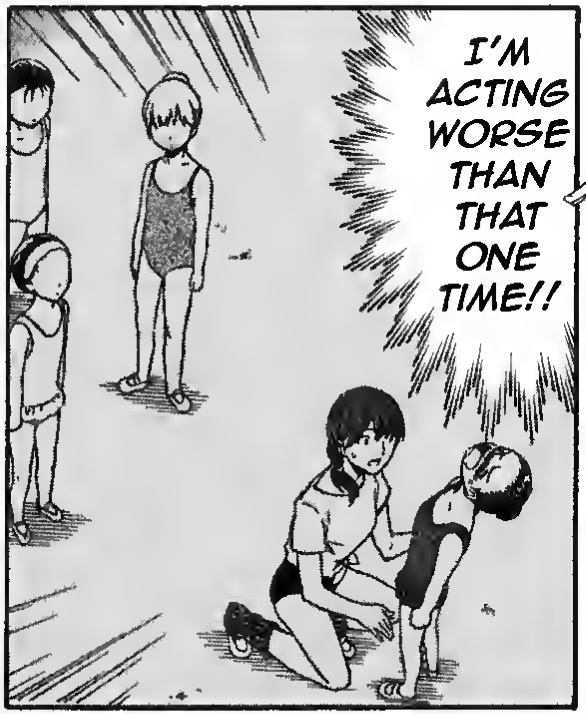
I'LL BE LEFT BEHIND AT THIS POINT!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
AND IT'S MY FIRST SOLO ON TOP OF THAT...
DADDY, CAN I BORROW YOUR TABLET?
WE'RE BACK~
HUH?
IS THERE EVEN ANYTHING I CAN DO?
I CAN'T LET MY DANCING LOSE TO THEIRS!
WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?!
SIGH
THIS ONE IS ALSO IN POINTE SHOES.


USE POINTE SHOES!!
ALL THE GOOD VIDEOS I COULD USE AS REFERENCE
MY CUPID IS SO MUCH DIFFERENT...
AS EXPECTED, GOING EN POINTE BRINGS OUT BEAUTY IN EVERY STEP...
UGH...
"GIVE IT YOUR BEST, KANADE-CHAN."
"IT'S AMAZING THAT YOU'RE A SOLOIST!"
"WOULDN'T WANT TO MISS THAT!"
MY GRANDPARENTS ARE ALSO LOOKING FORWARD TO MY PERFORMANCE.

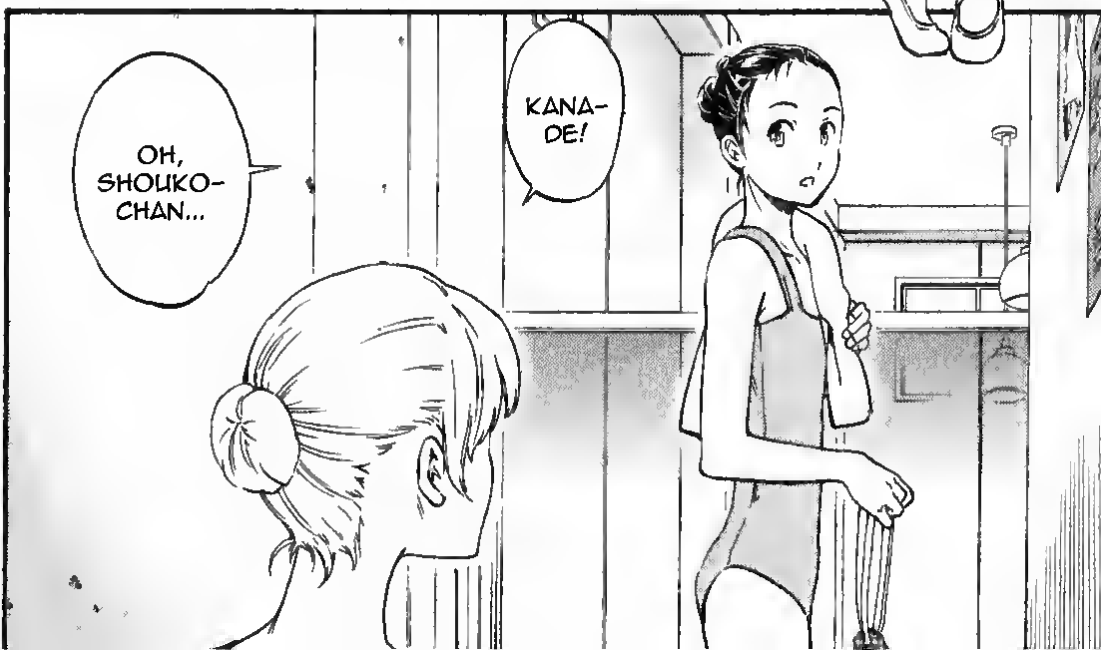
THAT'S BAD...
OKAY,
THAT'S ENOUGH!
pant
Pant
pant
I WATCHED A LOT OF VIDEOS OF CUPID, AND EVERYONE IS JUST SO MUCH BETTER IN COMPA-RISON.
I STILL FEEL LIKE I'M LIMITED IN WHAT I CAN DO...
CUPID IS THE CHARACTER WHO LEADS DON QUIXOTE TO THE DREAM WORLD, AND I FEEL YOU'RE CONVEYING IT PRETTY WELL!
IT'S FINE, I TELL YOU! YOUR POSITION HAS GOTTEN MUCH BETTER!
I'M NOT FEELING IT AT ALL~

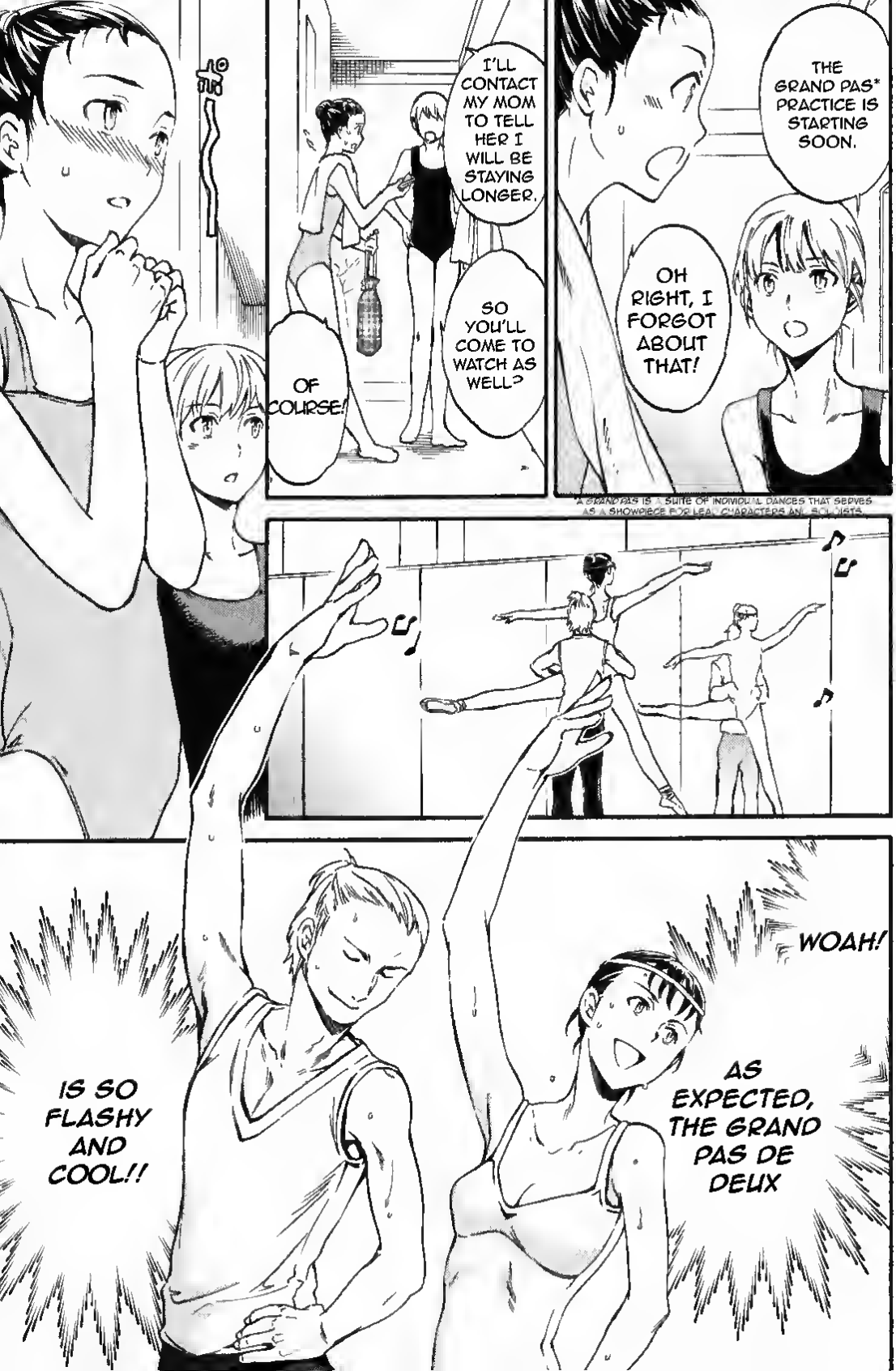
I'M SURE IT'S ALL ON THE DIFFERENCE IN HEIGHT.
IS THERE ANYTHING GOOD ABOUT BALLET SHOES?
THEY ALL SEEM SO PRETTY AND LIVELY...
WOW, YOU'RE PRETTY MOTIVATED IN YOUR RESEARCH.
TO SOMEONE WHO CAN WEAR POINTE SHOES..?
BUT MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE GIVEN THE ROLE
I STILL THINK KANADE-CHAN IS DOING A PRETTY GOOD JOB...
THIS IS TORTURE!
I JUST WANT TO GET IT OVER WITH ALREADY!

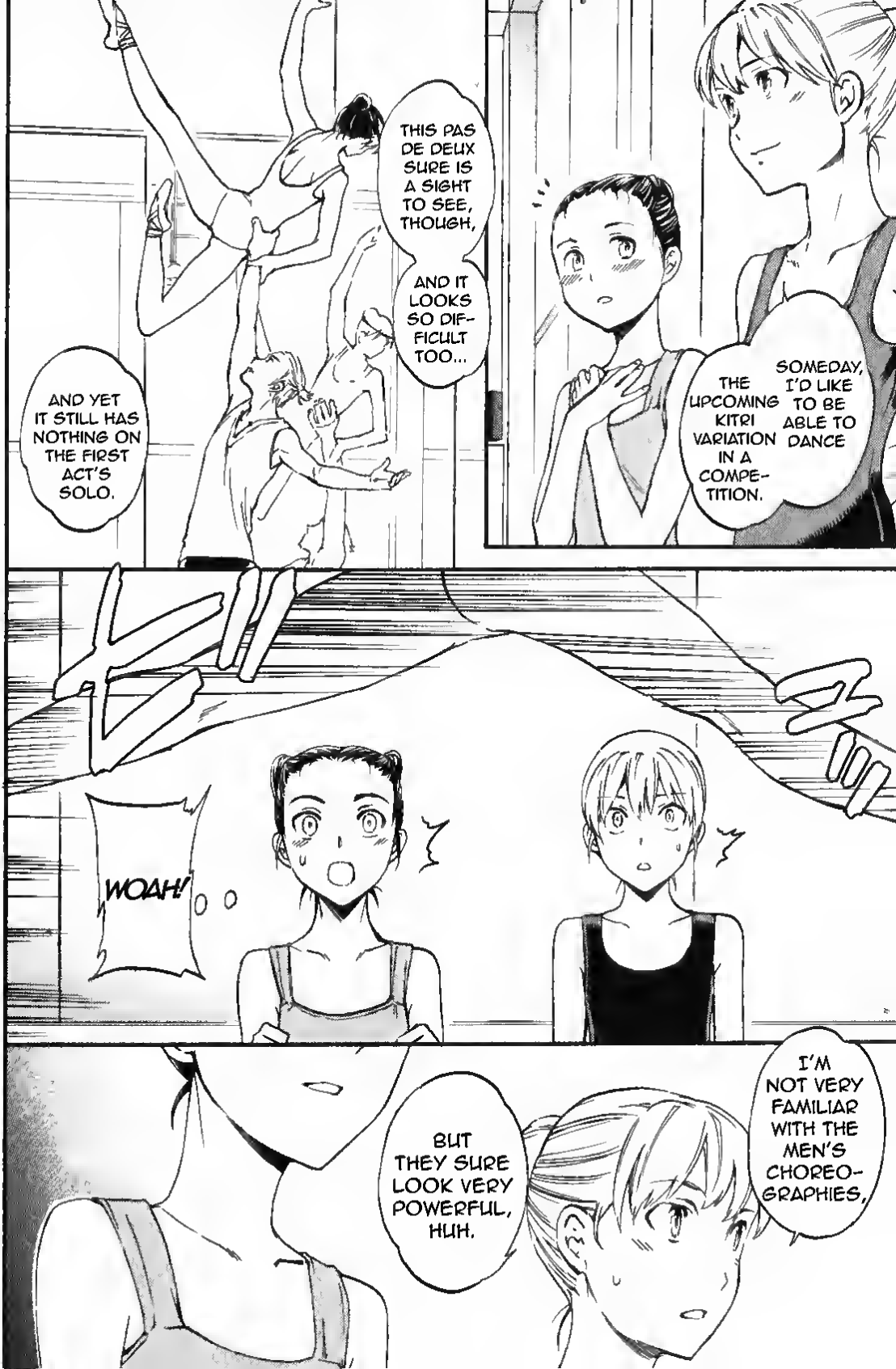
UGH, WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME...


I'M ACTING WORSE THAN THAT ONE TIME!!

YUCK!
SO BAD!


OH, SHOUKO-CHAN...
KANA-DE!

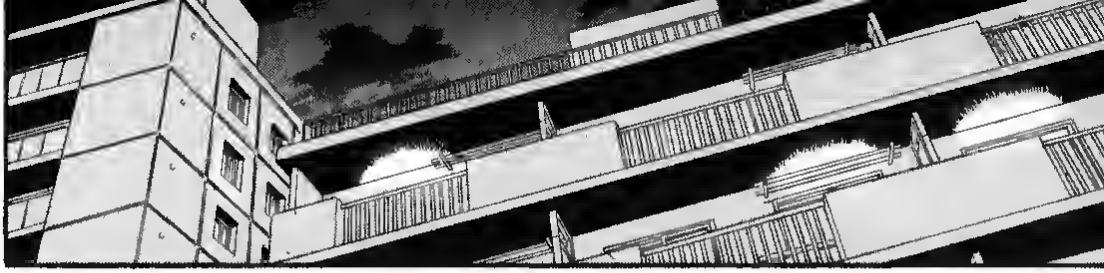

THE GRAND PAS* PRACTICE IS STARTING SOON.
OH RIGHT, I FORGOT ABOUT THAT!
I'LL CONTACT MY MOM TO TELL HER I WILL BE STAYING LONGER.
SO YOU'LL COME TO WATCH AS WELL?
OF COURSE!
A GRAND PAS IS A SUITE OF INDIVIDUAL DANCES THAT SERVES AS A SHOWPIECE FOR LEAD CHARACTERS AN ECLOGUE.
WOAH!
AS EXPECTED, THE GRAND PAS DE DEUX
IS SO FLASHY AND COOL!!

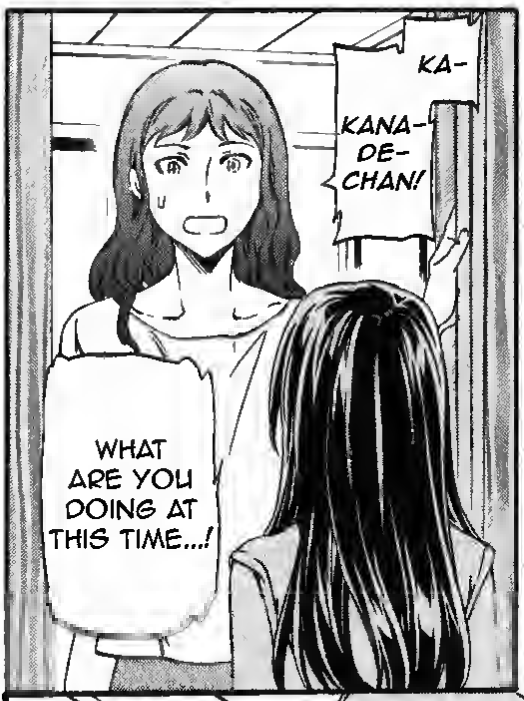

SOMEDAY, I'D LIKE TO BE ABLE TO DANCE THE UPCOMING KITRI VARIATION IN A COMPE-TITION.
THIS PAS DE DEUX SURE IS A SIGHT TO SEE, THOUGH,
AND IT LOOKS SO DIF-FICULT TOO...
AND YET IT STILL HAS NOTHING ON THE FIRST ACT'S SOLO.
WOAH!
I'M NOT VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE MEN'S CHOREO-GRAPHIES,
BUT THEY SURE LOOK VERY POWERFUL, HUH.

KANA-
DE?

KANA-
DE,
IS
SOME-
THING
WRONG?
HOW DID I
NEVER NOTICE
UNTIL NOW?

...LOVE?



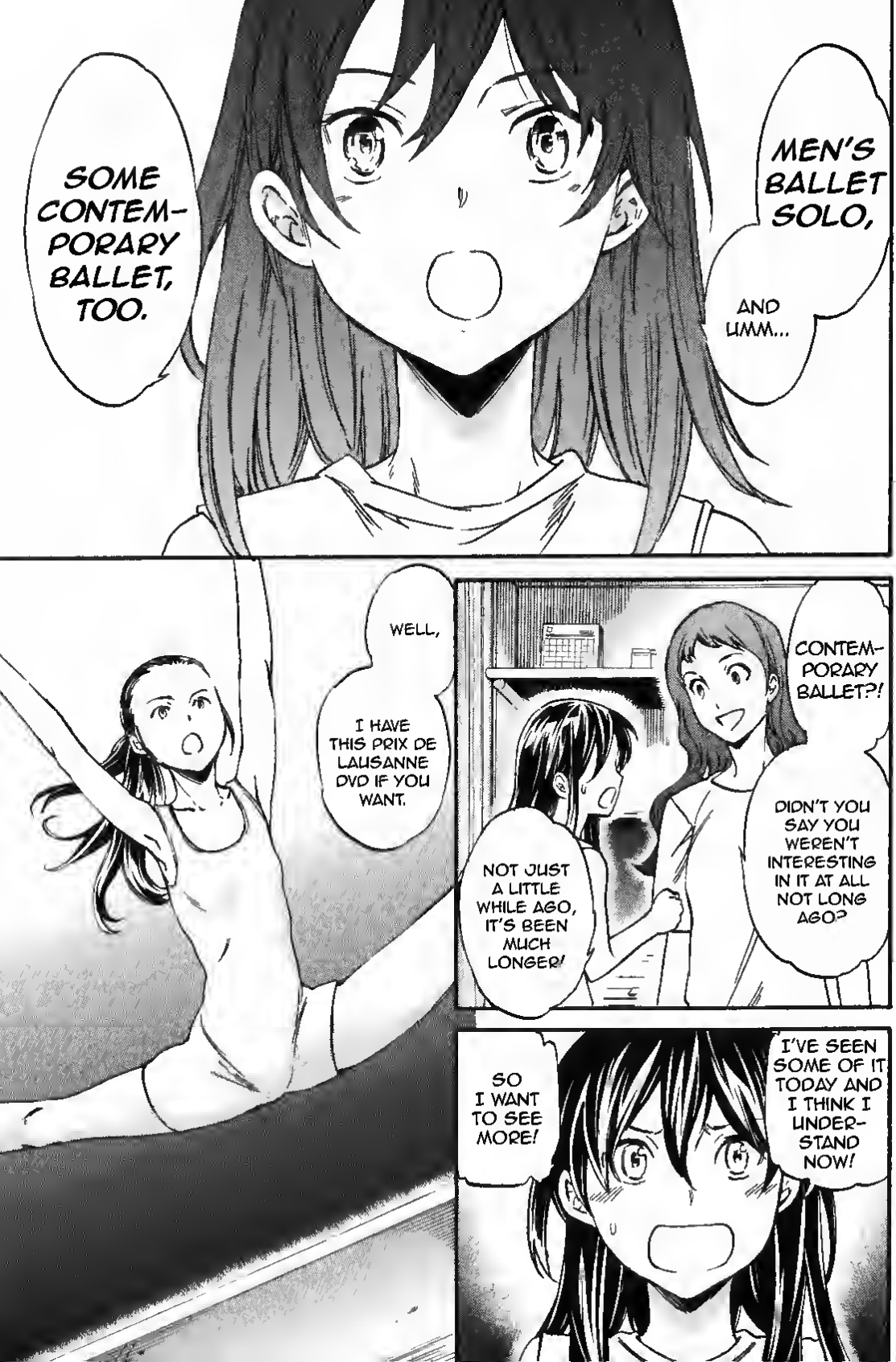

KA-
KANA-DE-CHAN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING AT THIS TIME...!

KNOCK KNOCK

IF YOU'RE HERE, I TRUST IT'S SOMETHING THAT CANNOT WAIT UNTIL TOMOR-ROW?
SO, WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANT TO WATCH?

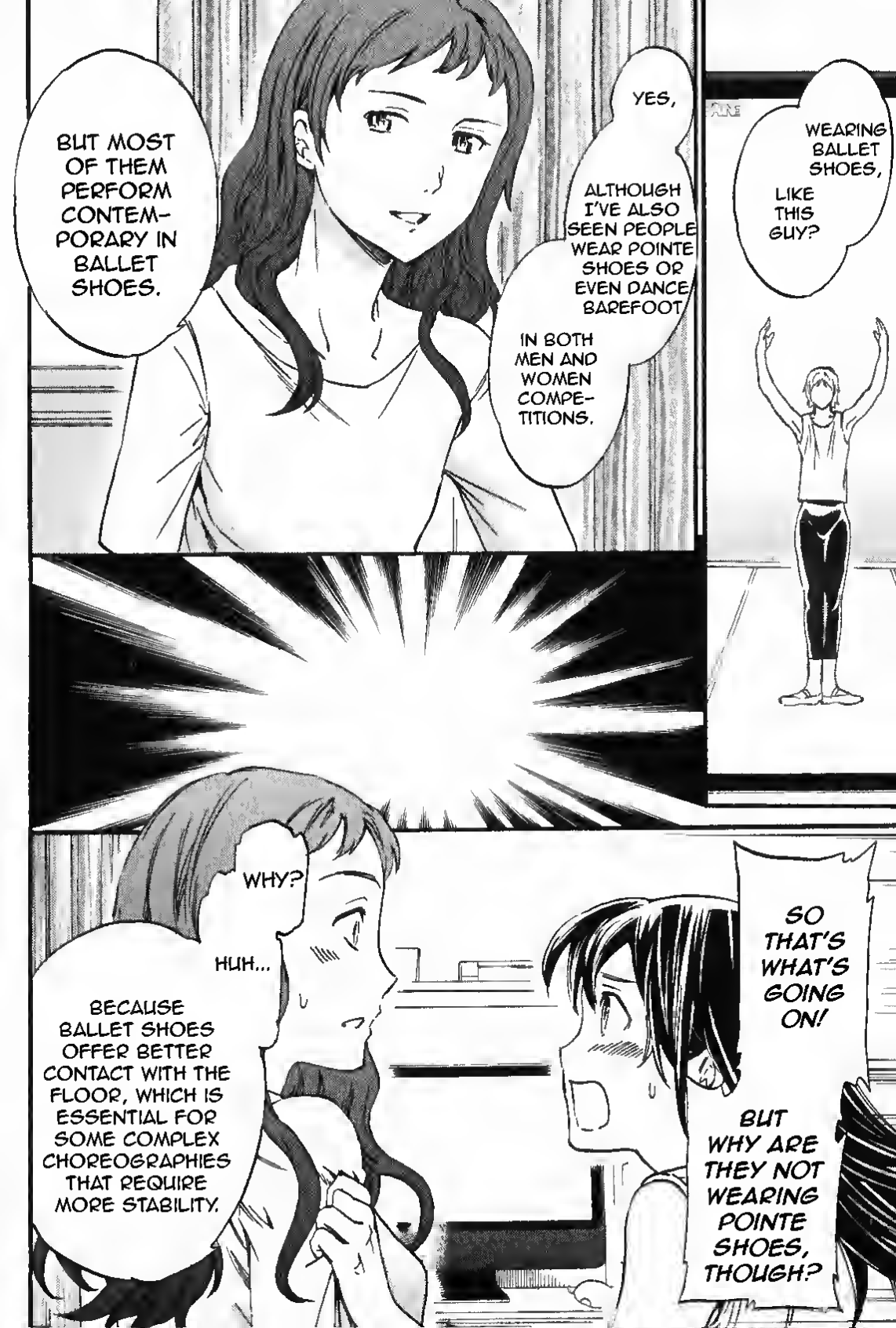
HEHEHE, IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE COME THIS WAY,
BUT I'VE GOT A FAVOUR TO ASK, RISA-CHAN.

I'D LIKE TO WATCH ONE OF YOUR BALLET DVD IF POSSIBLE,
MY DAD WON'T LET ME BORROW HIS TABLET THIS LATE...

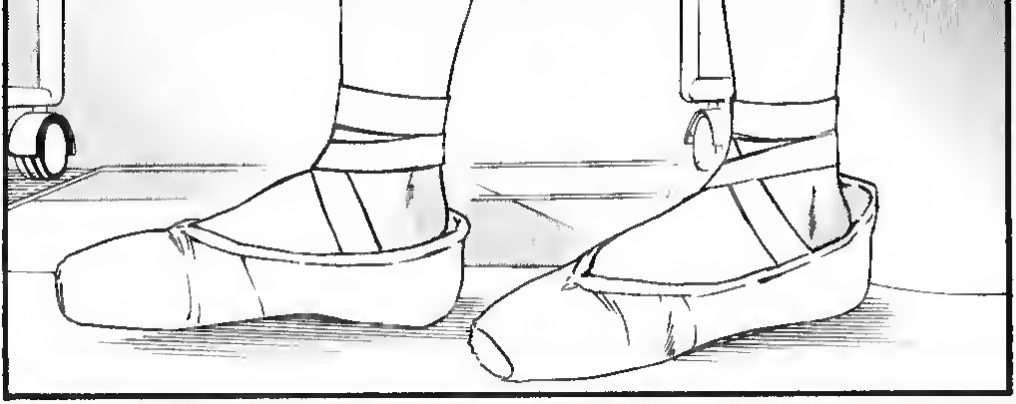

MEN'S BALLET SOLO,
AND UMM...
SOME CONTEM-PORARY BALLET, TOO.
CONTEM-PORARY BALLET?!
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WEREN'T INTERESTING IN IT AT ALL NOT LONG AGO?
NOT JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO, IT'S BEEN MUCH LONGER!
WELL,
I HAVE THIS PRIX DE LAUSANNE DVD IF YOU WANT.
I'VE SEEN SOME OF IT TODAY AND I THINK I UNDER-STAND NOW!
SO I WANT TO SEE MORE!

I KNOW IT'S BEEN GROWING A LOT IN POPULARITY,
BUT I ALWAYS KNEW I WANTED TO FOCUS MORE ON CLASSICAL BALLET.
CONTEMPORARY BALLET...
OH!
A MALE PARTI-CIPANT.
WAIT...
ISN'T KANADE-CHAN'S NEXT RECITAL CLASSICAL, ANYWAY?
DON QUIXOTE'S CUPID, RIGHT?
CUPID!

...RISA-CHAN, DO YOU HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE WITH CONTEMPORARY?
A LITTLE BIT, AS IS COMMON IN COMPETITIONS.


BUT MOST OF THEM PERFORM CONTEMPORARY IN BALLET SHOES.
YES, ALTHOUGH I'VE ALSO SEEN PEOPLE WEAR POINTE SHOES OR EVEN DANCE BAREFOOT IN BOTH MEN AND WOMEN COMPETITIONS.
WEARING BALLET SHOES, LIKE THIS GUY?
SO THAT'S WHAT'S GOING ON!
BUT WHY ARE THEY NOT WEARING POINTE SHOES, THOUGH?
WHY?
HUH...
BECAUSE BALLET SHOES OFFER BETTER CONTACT WITH THE FLOOR, WHICH IS ESSENTIAL FOR SOME COMPLEX CHOREOGRAPHIES THAT REQUIRE MORE STABILITY.

LIKE FOR THESE TYPES OF JUMPS, THEY ALLOW YOU TO LAND WITH MORE EASE
THANKS TO THEIR SOFTER SOLES.
...DO YOU STILL HAVE YOUR POINTE SHOES?!
UM, YEAH, THOUGH THEY'VE JUST BEEN COLLECTING DUST...
CAN I TRY THEM ON?!
BUT WEREN'T YOU...
I WON'T GO EN POINTE, I SWEAR!
THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO KNOW!



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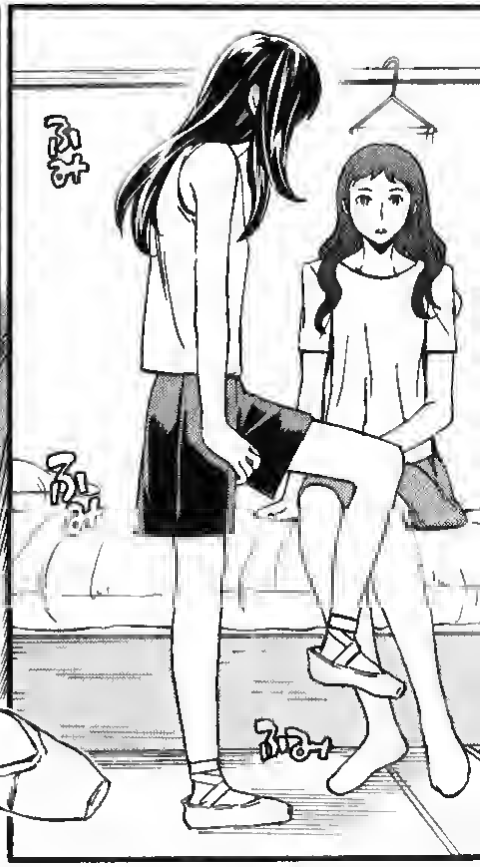
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THAT EXPLAINS EVERY-THING!
SO THAT'S IT!

I DIDN'T NOTICE THE FIRST TIME I TRIED THEM...
BUT POINTE SHOES SOLES... ARE SO MUCH MORE SOLID!!
THAT'S WHY MEN CAN JUMP SO POWERFULLY,
AND STILL LAND SO SOFTLY WHEN DOING CONTEMPORARY!

I THINK I KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH CUPID NOW.
THANK YOU RISA-CHAN.
KANADE-CHAN?
IT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME I'VE PEEKED ON THEIR LESSONS...
SO HOW DID I NOT NOTICE THAT THEY WERE WEARING BALLET SHOES EARLIER...
AND THAT THEY WERE WHAT ALLOWED THEM TO PERFORM SUCH IMPRESSIVE JUMPS?

BALLET SHOES DO HAVE THEIR STRENGTH!
AND I'VE GOT TO MAKE USE OF IT!
NOW I CAN'T WAIT TO TRY NEW THINGS OUT TOMORROW!
ARGH! TO THINK THAT I THOUGHT I COULDN'T DO CUPID WITHOUT POINTE SHOES!

LET ME SHOW YOU WHAT I CAN DO!!